Use of Solar Energy for Cooking Mid-Day Meals in Schools

2875. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a proposal to use the solar energy for cooking the mid-day meals in schools of western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the apparatuses required for cooking the mid-day meals have since been supplied to the respective schools;

(d) the cost of the entire project;

(e) whether all the schools in Rajasthan and other States will be brought under the ambit of such project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and indicating the expenditure involved thereon and the manner in which it will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources received a proposal during 2002-03 from the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation for the installation of solar concentrating cooking systems in two schools, one in Jodhpur district and the other in Sriganganagar district. Each system employs a paraboloidal mirror which concentrates solar heat into the kitchen for preparing meals for about 50 persons. The Ministry has sanctioned both projects.

(c) and (d) One system has been installed in the Government Girls Primary School at Ratanada, Jodhpur at a total cost of Rs. 65,000/-. The Ministry provided assistance to the extent of Rs. 25,000/-. The system in Sriganganagar is under installation.

(e) The Ministry has not received any proposal from Rajasthan or other States for installing solar cooking systems for preparing mid-day meals in schools.

(f) Does not arise.